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Box Office Totals.

Weekend Box Office, Jul. 12-14	
1. Despicable Me 2	$43.9 M
2. Grown Ups 2	$41.5 M
3. Pacific Rim	$37.3 M
4. The Heat	$14.0 M
5. The Lone Ranger	$11.5 M

Source: Box Office Mojo
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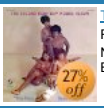
This Pussy Belongs to Me
Rudy Ray Moore
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Best $8.51

Rock 'n' Roll Nightmare
Clara Pater, Jesse...
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Best $13.00

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RED COCKROACHES (2004)

Published by Guest on 2006/11/3 (1206 reads)

Written & Directed by Miguel Coyula
Review By David Carter

BUY IT

Released by Heretic Films
Running Time: 82 minutes
Year of Release: 2005
Rating: NR
Color format: Color
Audio/Subtitles: Stereo English, Spanish Subtitles
Region Code: 1, NTSC
Aspect Ratio: Fullframe
16:9 Enhanced?: No
Special Features: "Making of" Featurette, Deleted Scenes, Cast and crew biographies, Audio commentary, 48-minute short film VALVULA DE LUZ, Outtakes, and Storyboards
Trailer Online?: Yes

With the release of his film RED COCKROACHES by Heretic Films, director Miguel Coyula should move near the top of the list of promising young directors working in independent film. Sort of a one-man film crew, Coyula wrote, directed, and shot the feature for a mere two thousand dollars. While making a film on such a miniscule budget would be an accomplishment in and of itself, RED COCKROACHES transcends its budget and is more impressive than many films with large budgets. The first part of a planned trilogy, RED COCKROACHES is a complex human drama set with elements of science fiction masterfully interwoven through the plot.

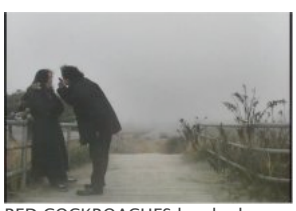
Adam Zarrasky lives in a future version of New York City. It's a bleak vision of the future. Acid rain is a daily occurrence and the city is overrun with mutated red cockroaches whose bite can cause death or mutation. The mega-corporation DNA21 has perfected a host of genetic manipulation techniques. On a human level, though, life remains the same--people go to work, date, and live as normal. Adam's life is disrupted by a chance encounter with a beautiful woman on a subway platform. They don't speak, but Adam's attraction to her causes him to reevaluate his life and dump his current girlfriend, whom he doesn't love.

The complications don't stop there for Adam. The beautiful woman begins popping up in his life in unexpected places. The most surprising for him is when she appears at his mother's house and her secret is revealed. She is, in reality, Adam's sister, Lily, who he believed to be dead. Adam is now faced with the dual shocks of his sister being alive and finding out the woman he loves is related to him. Lily reciprocates Adam's feelings and the two begin to deal with the complexities of their incestuous life. Meanwhile, the recent news reports give some shocking information about goings on at DNA21 that hint that all may not be what it seems with Lily.

Coyula's camerawork stands out, even after just one viewing of the film. He ably uses unique and interesting techniques and angles without falling into gimmicky shots. The film contains such striking visuals that most viewers would never believe that it was made for two thousand dollars. Most of the science-fiction elements in the film are subtly done through the visuals and all look surprisingly natural for being shot on digital.

The script is superb and Coyula should be commended for excellently balancing the sci-fi elements of the plot with the dramatic themes. Incest is a complicated and controversial topic for any one to tackle and Coyula is able to present it without being exploitative or celebratory towards the subject. The film doesn't pull any punches so it can be a bit disturbing at times and it will definitely make some viewers uncomfortable. If you're able to get past the taboo plot, you'll find a well acted and smartly written drama.

Heretic Films has given RED COCKROACHES and Coyula a DVD that really showcases the film and the director well. Included is one of Coyula's earlier works VALVULA DE LUZ, a 48 minute short that shows Coyula's talents at making a wide variety of genres of film. There is also a short "making of" featurette, as well as storyboards, outtakes, deleted scenes, and commentary. Most interesting are the cast and crew biographies, though, as they give a wealth of information about the education and careers of the filmmakers.



RED COCKROACHES has had a great deal of success on the film festival circuit. In my opinion, the film's success will increase after the release of the film on DVD. Miguel Coyula is a director to watch and expect big things from in the future. His style is reminiscent of David Lynch or David Cronenberg; outsider cinema made with the craftsmanship of one of the masters. The next installation of the trilogy, BLUE ROAD, has already been announced, and after seeing RED COCKROACHES you'll definitely be looking forward to it.

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